

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for remote processing of pharmacy orders:
 - establishing at an order server a plurality of order queues for a plurality of healthcare facilities, each of said order queues associated with one of said plurality of healthcare facilities;
 - assigning each of said plurality of order queues to one of a plurality of remote processing centers;
 - receiving at said order server a plurality of orders from said plurality of healthcare facilities;
 - adding each of said plurality of orders to one of said plurality of order queues associated with one of said plurality of healthcare facilities;
 - accessing one of said plurality of order queues from said one of said plurality of remote processing centers assigned to said order queue; and
 - processing said orders in said accessed order queue.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein processing said orders in said accessed order queue comprises accessing a pharmacy information system for said healthcare facility associated with said accessed order queue.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein accessing said pharmacy information system comprises automatically connecting to said pharmacy

information system when said accessed order queue is accessed from said remote processing center assigned to said order queue.

4. The method of claim 2 further comprising dispensing a medication associated with an order in said accessed order queue from an automated medication dispensing system interfaced to said pharmacy information system.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein processing said orders in said accessed order queue comprises processing said orders according to service level commitments specified by said healthcare facility associated with said accessed order queue.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein processing said orders in said accessed order queue comprises processing said orders according to policies established by said healthcare facility associated with said accessed order queue.
7. A method for remote processing of pharmacy orders:
 - establishing at an order server a first order queue for a first healthcare facility;
 - establishing at said order server a second order queue for a second healthcare facility;
 - receiving at said order server a plurality of orders from said first healthcare facility;
 - receiving at said order server a plurality of orders from said

second healthcare facility;

adding each of said plurality of orders from said first healthcare facility to said first order queue;

adding each of said plurality of orders from said second healthcare facility to said second order queue;

accessing orders from said first order queue and orders from said second order queue from a first remote processing center; and

processing at said first remote processing center said orders from said first order queue and orders from said second order queue.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising accessing orders from said first order queue and orders from said second order queue from a second remote processing center upon failure of said first remote processing center to process orders.
9. The method of claim 7 wherein processing at said first remote processing center said orders from said first order queue comprises accessing a pharmacy information system for said first healthcare facility associated with said first order queue.
10. The method of claim 9 wherein accessing said pharmacy information system comprises automatically connecting to said pharmacy information system when said first order queue associated with said first healthcare facility is selected at said first remote processing center.

11. The method of claim 9 further comprising dispensing a medication associated with an order in said first order queue from an automated medication dispensing system interfaced to said pharmacy information system.
12. The method of claim 7 wherein processing at said first remote processing center said orders from said first order queue comprises processing said orders according to service level commitments specified by said first healthcare facility associated with said first order queue.
13. The method of claim 7 wherein processing at said first remote processing center said orders from said first order queue comprises processing said orders according to policies established by said first healthcare facility associated with said first order queue.
14. A system for remote processing of pharmacy orders comprising:
 - a plurality of order queues, each of said order queues associated with a healthcare facility;
 - an order server for receiving orders from said healthcare facilities and adding them to said order queues according to said associated healthcare facility and for responding to requests for accessing and processing orders in said plurality of order queues; and
 - at least one computer at least one remote processing center for accessing and processing orders in said plurality of order queues.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein said computer at said remote processing center is adapted to display a master healthcare facility queue view comprising the total number of orders in the healthcare facility queue and the time of the oldest order in the healthcare facility queue.
16. The system of claim 15 wherein said computer at said remote processing center is adapted to display a healthcare facility detail queue view comprising an expanded view of said healthcare facility queue and status information related to processing of an order in said healthcare facility queue.
17. The system of claim 16 wherein said status information relates to processing commitments specified in a service level agreement.
18. The system of claim 14 wherein said computer at said remote processing center is adapted to display an order view comprising an electronic image of an order from a selected healthcare facility queue.
19. The system of claim 14 further comprising a clinical intervention automated tracking application for documenting and reporting order consultations.
20. The system of claim 14 further comprising a second remote processing center for accessing and processing orders in said plurality of order queues when said at least one remote processing center fails to process orders.